demonstrationin the month of February, 2003 and also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister regarding their demand for security of Kuki tribal area;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the details of demands made by them in the said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Kuki Students' Organisation, Delhi submitted a memorandum in which the following demands have been raised:

(i) Kuki territorial integrity be safeguarded;

(ii) Kuki history of opposition to colonialism be considered in future deliberations concerning Kuki territory;

(iii) District boundaries in Manipur be considered along ethnic lines rather than the existing administrative ones;

(iv) Kuki chiefs' land ownership rights be considered so that State Government does not possess the authority to deliberate on matters of boundary that affect Kuki territory; and

(v) Pre-empt eventualities, such as those perpetrated by the NSCN (I/M) in the 1990s.

It has been sent to Government of Manipur for further appropriate action.

Left-wing Extremism

2857. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems both with regard to the law and order and developmental front in the wake of recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs about the rising extremism of the left-wing parties in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): To tackle the problem of left wing extremism, it has been agreed to adopt a two pronged strategy. On the one hand, there is a need to remove all the shortcomings in intelligence sharing and mounting well coordinated anti-naxalite operations by joint task forces of the concerned States, on the other hand a greater emphasis needs to be given to accelerate the physical and social infrastructure in the affected districts.

Several measures such as providing financial support for combating Left Wing Extremist activities sharing of intelligence inputs and providing assistance of Para Military Forces on a need basis etc. are undertaken by the Central Government. Steps have also been initiated to provide some funds from the Central Government for development of the LWE affected districts.

Cultivation of opium and Cannabis in India

2858. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent report of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board for the year 2002 expressing concern on the *vide* spread illicit cultivation of opium and cannabis in India, especially in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh which might retard the long term economic development in these regions; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to combat the illicit cultivation of these drugs and also for crops substitution in the affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In India, there is no large scale organized cultivation of illicit opium and cannabis. The country is traditionally a licit cultivator of opium poppy, which is grown in Central India under the close supervision of the Government. However, illicit cannabis cultivation has been reported from some inhospitable areas of the country Regular surveys are conducted to identify such cannabis cultivations which are promptly destroyed and action initiated against the persons involved in such activities. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have been addressed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to constitute Coordination Committees under the Chief Secretary for drawing up an Action Plan for eradication of illicit cultivation and wherever necessary preparation of plans for crop substitution and alternative development.